

SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS LATER,
A SECOND STATION IN NEW ENGLAND
FOR MICRASTERIAS NORDSTEDTIANA

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In the year 1895 L. N. Johnson reported finding the rare desmid *Micrasterias Nordstedtiana* Wolle in Meredith, Belknap County, New Hampshire. This report from the Granite State is apparently the only previous one of this desmid within the New England region, and one of the very few from the United States.

In addition to the original citation by Wolle (1884), G. M. Smith (1924) lists it among the phytoplankton of the inland lakes of Wisconsin, but in only one lake.

Collections of *Proserpinacea palustris* L. from Icehouse Pond, located a long half-mile from Interstate Route 495 on West Main Street in Hopkinton, Norfolk County, Massachusetts, yielded a very rich collection of algae which are being reported on at another time. In the material of the collection the authors found several specimens of this desmid of rather simple form. Figure 1a is redrawn from the camera lucida drawing by the first author. Figure 1b shows the neck prominences of the type described by Wolle, and 1c shows the semicell of the specimen found by Johnson. Both 1b and 1c were redrawn from plates in the publications by those authors.

Johnson noted that his specimen varied from the type in that the lobes terminated in two spines rather than the three or more figured by Wolle, and that the projections on the sides of the neck ended in two spines, rather than being the short conical prominences of Wolle's figure. Comparing the two figures, one suggests that Johnson somewhat understated the differences.

Our specimen compares very favorably to the type, except that ours also shows but two spines at the end of each polar lobe, rather than the three or four indicated by Wolle.

With the single findings by Johnson and Smith, and the two reported by Wolle (1892), one each in New Jersey and

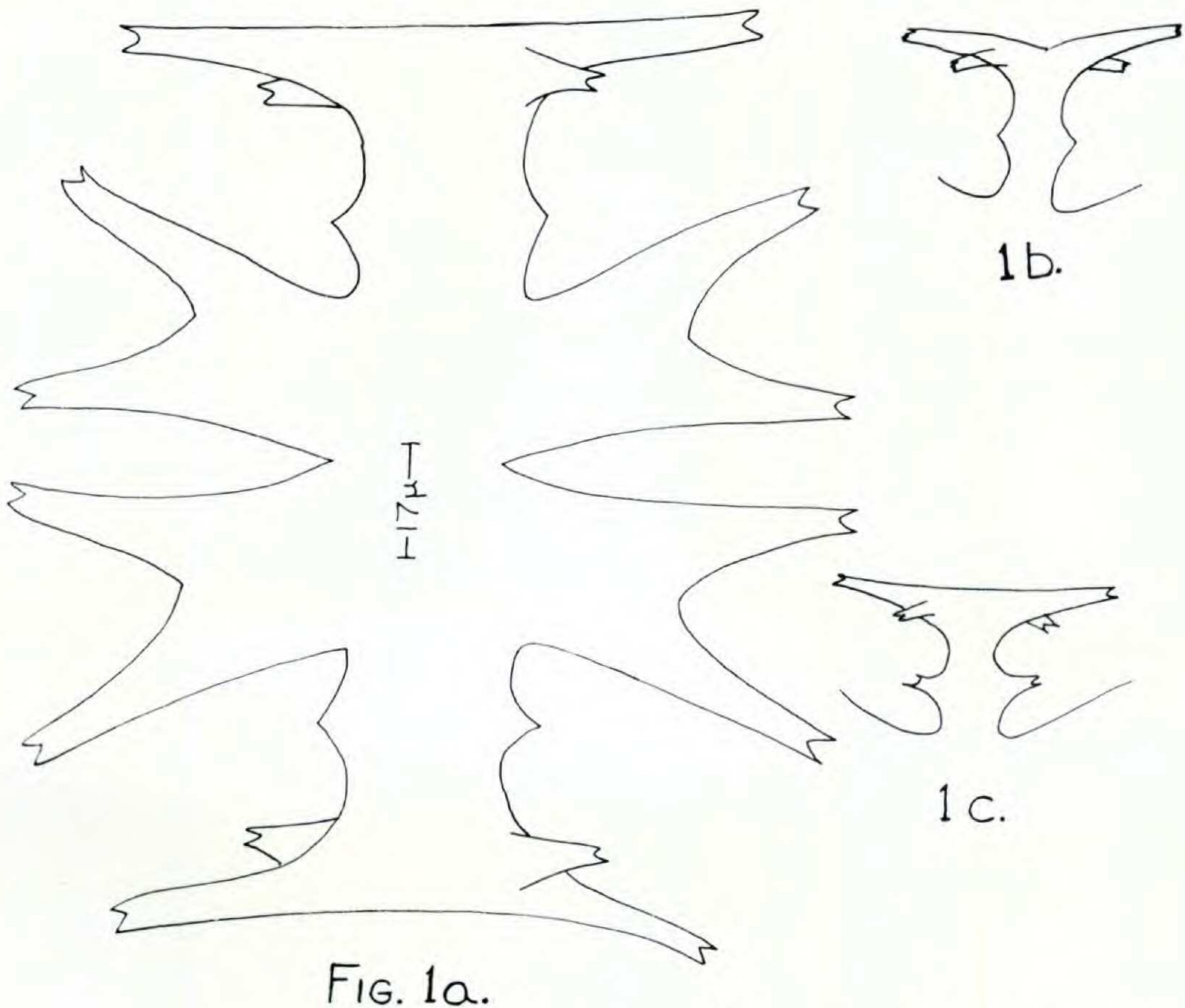


FIG. 1a.

Fig. 1. *Micrasterias Nordstedtiana* Wolle. 1a, Colt & Hellquist, Hopkinton, Massachusetts, scale is indicated. 1b, type specimen from Wolle (1884). 1c, from Johnson (1895). 1b & 1c not drawn to scale.

Pennsylvania, our station appears to be only the fifth in the United States. As the illustration shows, the striking simplicity of the desmid makes identification easy once it appears under the microscope.

LITERATURE CITED

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